

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2009

EAT LOCAL, EAT SMART

WABASSO ISLAND, Fla. Never before assembled, an impressive panel of local growers, ranchers and gatherers will take part in a roundtable discussion on the differences between “sustainable” and “industrial” agriculture. The occasion is part of the Environmental Learning Center’s Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the Indian River Land Trust, and it will take place on the ELC campus from 6:30 to 8:00 PM on March 4.

Sustainable agriculture refers to the ability of a farm to produce food indefinitely, without causing severe or irreversible damage to ecosystem health. It incorporates a requirement for economic viability and includes physical elements such as water use and quality and soil management. Local production and use avoids transportation and refrigeration requirements, thus saving energy and improving air quality.

Indian River County boasts a growing number of participating farms and ranches. Taking part in the roundtable will be Linda Hart (Crazy Hart Ranch), Doyle Hogan (Hogan Citrus), Christine Kelly-Begazo (Indian River County Extension Office), Kevin O’Dare (Osceola Organic Farm), Brian Quant (White Rabbit Organic Farm) and Sean Sexton (local rancher).

The cost is \$30 per person (\$25 for ELC/IRLT members) and includes wine and locally grown finger foods. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 772-589-5050.

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